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to diminish their armaments. But the ultimatum sent to Turkey and the offensive purposes of other nations rendered it necessary for them to be in a state of preparedness for contingencies. Their great fleet was defensive only, and it was necessary for their islands. They must have an army sufficient for home defense and a great fleet to secure them against any combination.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, supported Mr. Vivian's resolution in a brief but strong and most sensible speech. He said that Mr. Balfour in his remarks had ignored the whole point raised by the resolution, which was not abolition of armaments, but only their reduction. The Turkish affair was in the way of satisfactory settlement. The national expenditure, which had grown enormously, could be reduced without jeopardizing national safety. A good deal depended no doubt on the policy of other countries. But a declaration of the kind proposed was worth having for the effect it might produce on other countries. There was a strong feeling in favor of reduction in all countries where the burden of armaments was heavy. The purpose of the coming Hague Conference was to promote peace and to lessen the horrors of war. It could do no greater service than to make the conditions of peace less expensive. There were certain offsets to the horrors of war, but against war expenditures there was no offset. They remained, after the excitement and passion were over, a heavy deadweight on the national life, lowering the standard of vitality of the country. That was one of the worst evils of war. The Hague Conference could aspire to no greater task than to bring about a reduction of armaments. This was more urgent now than when the first Conference met. As to waiting for foreign nations to move, they were all waiting upon each other. Some day somebody must take the first step. He hoped the amendment to the resolution would not be pressed, as it would preclude their taking the initiative at The Hague. They must, of course, find out the wishes of other powers. Some other power might take the initiative, but they should not be precluded from doing so. They must do all in their power to have the subject brought forward in the most practical form. He not only accepted, on behalf of the government, but welcomed Mr. Vivian's resolution. He trusted that it would be taken in other countries as an invitation from the British House of Commons to respond to their feelings in favor of reduction of armaments.

In response to this appeal, Mr. Bellairs withdrew his amendment and Mr. Vivian's resolution was agreed to without any opposition.

This action of the House of Commons, initiated by the labor element and supported and virtually led

by the government, is unquestionably, by reason of England's place in the world, the most encouraging event that has yet taken place in relation to the final solution of the problem of general peace. The question of disarmament, or even of limitation and reduction of armaments, is not by any means the chief phase of the problem. But this action clearly denotes that the movement on its constructive side — international association, the development of arbitration, the existence of the Permanent International Court, the near approach of the creation of a congress of nations — is so far advanced as to assure early action toward the limitation and reduction of the ruinous armaments in the rivalry of which the governments have apparently gone stark mad. Without the constructive work, militarism would undoubtedly have gone to still greater lengths of insaneness, but, as it is, every one of its excuses for continuing its irrational course is destroyed. One of the greatest governments in the world, backed by the masses of its people, has spoken, seriously and deliberately, and declared that the hour to call a halt has come. Its voice will be heard, for the desire to say the same thing has grown strong in nearly every great capital of the earth.

Let our own government, before Congress adjourns, say the same great word on this side the Atlantic and the thing will be soon done.

Editorial Notes.

The Eighteenth of May. It is impossible for us to give any accurate estimate of the extent to which the

18th of May, the anniversary of the opening of the Hague Conference, was observed this year throughout the country. But from the details which are coming in, we are sure that the observance was even greater and more enthusiastic than we had dared to expect. At Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Providence and other cities, the peace societies and other organizations held important meetings. At Cincinnati every school in the city from the high schools down had exercises. All the leaders of peace thought were in demand for addresses before college and university gatherings, schools, women's council meetings, etc. Many clergymen used the Sunday either before or after the 18th to inculcate the lessons suggested by the occasion. Large numbers of the schools of Massachusetts had exercises appropriate to the day, either in the form of addresses by prominent persons from the outside, or of short talks by superintendents or teachers, or programs by the pupils themselves. In New Jersey, where the day was observed with peculiar interest and enthusiasm, the letter sent out by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction was read in every high

school in the State. In many of these schools resolutions were adopted and sent to the Senators from the State at Washington. We have no doubt that if all the details of the day were at hand a story of extraordinary interest could be made out of them. In a grammar school of several hundred pupils addressed by the writer on the day before the 18th the pupils, ranging in age from ten to sixteen, gave the most marked attention to what the speaker said about the bringing of the nations into a federation resembling somewhat our union of States, and cheered enthusiastically as he sat down. It is a slander that boys and girls are fonder of quarreling and fighting than they are of harmony and peace. If we teach them peace in a manly and noble way, they will all love and honor it, and will cease to have the abnormal liking for war—horrible, grawsome war—which a false and traditional education has given them. The 18th of May seems certain now to develop into one of the most influential festal days that we have ever seen.

Cuba as an Example.

The fourth anniversary of the independence of Cuba was celebrated at Washington on May 20 by a banquet at the Cuban legation given by Minister Quesada, and attended by the diplomatic representatives of the American republics and a number of Washington public men. Señor Quesada, in a brief speech, expressed his government's recognition of the services rendered by the United States to Cuba, speaking especially of the friendship of President Roosevelt and Secretary Root. Secretary Root, who was the principal speaker, expressed the satisfaction of the people of the United States at the success of the Cuban government and the progress and prosperity of the Cuban people. He also discussed the coming Pan-American Conference at Rio Janeiro. Primarily, he said, his prospective visit to South America was to enable him to get better acquainted with those countries, and he hoped that it would result in a better understanding by them of the United States and of them by the United States. He said also that the United States had no desire for one inch of the territory of any of them, and the example of the policy carried out toward Cuba, he thought, should be taken as evidence of this government's disinterested policy in desiring to promote better relations with all the Latin-American countries, and to help them in their progress.

The remarks of Secretary Root were received with enthusiasm by the representatives of the Latin-American countries. We have no doubt that he expressed the general feeling in this country toward the nations and peoples south of us, in spite of the fact that a number of us in high places and places not so high have swung the Monroe doctrine in such fashion as to kindle a good deal of suspicion of us among all Latin-Americans. Secretary

Root will probably find it necessary to speak several times before all the mischief that has been done is rooted up.

German Meeting in Cooper Union. The meeting in Cooper Union, on Saturday evening, May 19, organized by the

New York German Peace Society, was an imposing manifestation of interest among the German-speaking citizens in the subject of peace in general and of an arbitration treaty with Germany in particular. The great auditorium seating more than three thousand people was almost entirely filled, and the addresses given were enthusiastically applauded. The speakers were Hon. Richard Bartholdt, member of Congress, Prof. Francis G. Peabody of Harvard, Prof. Charles Sprague Smith and Mr. George von Stal. In opening the meeting Dr. Ernst Richard of Columbia University, President of the Society, paid an eloquent tribute to the late Carl Schurz. A series of strong resolutions were adopted expressing regret that the arbitration treaties signed by Secretary Hay had failed, urging the settlement of all international controversies by arbitration, inviting the President to open negotiations for an arbitration treaty with Germany and with all other countries, and pledging the government the support of the German citizens in its efforts in this direction. A letter of greeting from the American Peace Society was read (see page 122) and a telegram from the Cincinnati Arbitration and Peace Society. The German Peace Society of the Fatherland sent this cable message: "Brotherly greeting to brothers." A letter of greeting was also received from Davenport, Iowa, from the German-American Central Union. An extended report of the proceedings of the meeting, in German, is given in the *New York Staatszeitung* for May 20. We congratulate our German friends on this successful and splendid demonstration in behalf of the great principles of international friendship and peace.

Brevities.

. . . A dispatch from The Hague, May 20, says that "The government has submitted a bill asking the second chamber of Parliament to approve a protocol which Russia wishes the signatories of the convention of 1899 to sign on assembling for the second peace conference, which declares that the powers not represented at the first conference, but which have been invited to attend the second, shall, by acceptance of the invitation, become adherents to that convention."

. . . The Peace Society of the City of New York (President, Hon. Oscar S. Straus, Secretary, Prof. Samuel T. Dutton) is gradually rallying to itself the peace forces of the city. Many letters are being sent out inviting persons to become members, and are meeting with a good response. Mr. Carnegie has expressed his deep interest in the new society and has given evidence of it by sending a check for \$1,000.